Central Unified NCAA Handbook

This packet has been created for your convenience to help guide you through an important time in your life. Continuing your academic and athletic career in college requires a tremendous amount of work.

While we can assist you through the college recruiting & admission process, you are the generating force to assure that the necessary tasks get accomplished. The guidance counselors, coaches and teachers here at Central Unified are here to help. The success of this process also depends upon realistic evaluations of your ability, both in the classroom and in the sports arena. Please use this information to help further your athlete's opportunities beyond high school. There are many people to assist you along the way. Do not hesitate to ask for help.

INTRODUCTION

- Each year thousands of student athletes and parents market themselves to college coaches. Some are very successful, some are not. It's not a difficult process if you have a road map and the basic resources to give your student athlete the best possible advantage. Regardless of the type of college sport, the process is the same - you have to get noticed to get recruited!

- The key to success is to remember that this process is not a sprint, it's a multi-year marathon and the journey starts with a common sense plan. Working the plan, as a Parent / Student team, spending a little time each month can open doors you never thought possible that lead you to a collegiate student-athlete experience of a lifetime.

Can my Student Athlete compete at the college level?

- Let's be realistic. College sport positions and athletic scholarships aren't available to everyone. You should be aware that most student athletes will not be able to play Division 1 sports. There are too many athletes and only so many Division 1 schools. However, the vast majority of colleges or universities are not Division 1 schools and yet they have very competitive sports programs.
- You or your student athlete will have to meet some important conditions to get to the next level. There is a significant level of student athlete competitors seeking to fill college sports positions and potential scholarship offers. You may be a "star" athlete at your high school, but you will need to know how you match
- up with other high school star athletes around the country.
- You'll need to identify your academic and athletic abilities and what division level student athlete you are to target the right schools where you have the best chance of competing for an opportunity, receiving a scholarship or incentive package. Ask all of your coaches and others you know that will be honest and candid with you. Ask them what they think of your athletic abilities and at what division level they believe you could compete in.

- To compete at the college level, coaches are looking for a student athlete who possesses the applicable sport specific tools such as strength, speed, hitting, hitting for power, fielding etc. After that they look at character and mental toughness that make up the will-to-win, attitude following failure, performance under pressure, respect for family and teammates. It is a vital part of the plan we develop for our student athletes to create and take advantage of opportunities where we can reveal the outstanding character developed in our programs.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM COACHES

What do College Coaches expect?

- A very small percentage of high school student athletes receive college opportunities, scholarships or incentive packages because the coach "happened to find him or her." Only the top elite athletes, the top 100 nationally receive enough media coverage and recognition that they are automatically recruited without having to make an effort. The other 99% have to take the initiative to contact the colleges and coaches where they have an interest. Most schools' recruiting budgets are small, and coaches rely on you to contact them. College coaches are very busy, they don't have the time or budget to travel around the country to see you or your student athlete compete. Phone calls, emails, cover letters, profile- resumes, stats, video and references become key tools for the coach in the recruiting and evaluating process.
- You might think that it's too self-promoting to make the initial contact with a coach and to "market" your student athlete. However, this is the norm. If you don't do it, other student athletes will get the opportunity, get noticed and get recruited because they and their parents will have made the effort
- and received the attention. These days, college coaches expect you to do this, it's an expected practice!
- Coaches expect you to prepare academically. College Coaches expect that you understand that preparation academically is of primary importance to the recruiting process. This means preparing in the classroom as much as on the field. Failure to take care of your academic standing often means failure to achieve athletic goals. As an example, since Division III institutions do not offer athletic scholarships, academic performance is just as valued as athletic performance in the recruiting process.

What can you expect from your High School Coach?

- High school coaches are a great resource for college coaches. They're a valuable and powerful reference that college coaches will want to talk to about your student athlete. They are an excellent source for a positive student athlete recommendation letter. Work hard to keep your relationship with the coach a positive one. Do not get caught up in the parent - coach "my athlete doesn't get enough playing time" discussion - argument. If your student athlete is good enough, they'll get enough playing time.

- Be sure to have a game plan about your future. It's your responsibility to market your talents, get your name in front of college coaches and control your own college career!

WHAT IS THE NCAA?

What is the NCAA?

- The NCAA, or National Collegiate Athletic Association, was established in 1906 and serves as the athletics governing body for more than 1,300 colleges, universities, conferences and organizations. The national office is in Indianapolis, Indiana, but the member colleges and universities develop the rules and guidelines for athletics eligibility and athletics competition for each of the three NCAA divisions. The NCAA is committed to the student-athlete and to governing competition in a fair, safe, inclusive and sportsmanlike manner.

What is the NCAA Eligibility Center?

- The NCAA Eligibility Center certifies the initial academic eligibility and amateur status of all college-bound student-athletes who wish to compete in NCAA Division I or II athletics.
- To assist with this process, the NCAA Eligibility Center staff is eager to foster a cooperative environment of education and partnership with high schools, high school coaches and college-bound student-athletes. Ultimately, the individual student-athlete is responsible for achieving and protecting his or her eligibility status.

How to find answers to your questions?

The answers to most questions can be found in this Guide or by:

1. Accessing the NCAA Eligibility Center's resource page on its website: **www.eligibilitycenter.org** clicking on “Resources” and then selecting the type of student you are (U.S., International or home school). You can then navigate through the resources to find helpful information.
2. Call the NCAA Eligibility Center - U.S. Callers toll free (877) 262-1492

WHAT IS A SCHOLARSHIP?

Does the NCAA award athletics scholarships?

Individual schools award athletics scholarships, which are partially supported through NCAA revenue distribution. Divisions I and II schools provide more than $2 billion in athletics scholarships annually to more than 126,000 student-athletes. Division III schools do not offer athletically related financial aid.

Is an athletics scholarship guaranteed for four years?

Many athletics scholarships, like most merit-based scholarships, are granted for one academic year. However, schools are allowed to provide multi-year scholarships. Allowing schools to award scholarships for longer than a single year gives student-athletes greater assurance that their education will continue even if they suffer an injury, their athletics performance does not live up to expectations or the coaching staff changes. If a school plans to reduce or not renew a student-athlete's aid, the school must provide the student-athlete an opportunity to appeal. In most cases, coaches decide who receives a scholarship, what it will cover and whether it will be renewed.

What do athletics scholarships cover?

Full scholarships cover tuition and fees, room, board and required course-related books. Many student-athletes receive athletics scholarships covering only a portion of these costs. What is a full athletics scholarship worth these days? The average value of a full scholarship at an in-state, public school is $15,000 a year. For an out-of-state public school, the average value is $25,000 a year. Full scholarships at private schools average $35,000 a year. The real value of athletics scholarships is intangible. Without them, many student-athletes would be unable to pursue their athletics and academic dreams.

Can student-athletes receive other non-athletics financial aid?

Yes. Thousands of student-athletes benefit from academic scholarships, NCAA financial aid programs such as the NCAA Division I Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund and needbased aid such as Federal Pell Grants. Student-athletes and parents should check with their school's athletics department or financial aid office regarding permissible sources of financial aid.

Is an athletics scholarship the same thing as a National Letter of Intent (NLI)?

The NLI seeks to limit recruiting pressure by providing a prospective student-athlete an opportunity to make a binding commitment to a school. An athletics scholarship sets forth the amount of financial aid the student-athlete will receive during an academic year. The NLI must be accompanied by an athletics scholarship to be valid.

Do many high school athletes earn athletics scholarships?

Very few, in fact. About two percent of high school athletes are awarded athletics scholarships to compete in college.

POSSIBLE ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

For college-bound student-athletes enrolling full time at an NCAA Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2016, there are three possible academic outcomes:

1. Full qualifier = I have met all NCAA requirements and am ready for competition, athletics aid (scholarship), and practice the first year.

2. Academic redshirt = I have partially met the NCAA requirements and am ready for athletics aid the first year, practice in first regular academic term (semester or quarter).

3. Nonqualifier = I have not met the requirements and can have no athletic aid, practice or competition the first year.

Full Qualifier	Academic Redshirt	Nonqualifier
Complete 16 Core Courses: • 10 of the 16 core courses must be complete before 7th semester (senior year) of high school. •7 of the 10 core courses must be in English, Math, or Science.	Complete 16 core courses.	Does not meet requirements for Full Qualifier or Academic Redshirt status.
Minimum Core-Course GPA of 2.3	Minimum Core-Course GPA of 2.0	
Meet the Competition sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score.*	Meet the Academic Redshirt sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/ SAT score.*	
Graduate from high school.	Graduate from high school.	

HOW TO BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP

1. Complete the 16 NCAA approved core-courses requirement in eight semesters

2. Obtain a minimum core-course overall GPA of 2.300 in the 16 NCAA approved core-courses for competition. Your elective courses do not count towards your GPA

3. Ten core courses must be completed before the beginning of your senior year for competition. Once you begin your senior year those grades will be locked in and can not be replaced.

4. Register with NCAA and complete online player profile at the NCAA eligibility center. Go to NCAA.org and click on student athlete. Finally click on Eligibility Center. Do not forget your password, you will need it later.

5. Earn a combined SAT or ACT sum score that matches the core course grade-point average and test-score sliding scale. (For example, a 3.000 core-course grade-point average needs at least a 620 SAT)

6. Meet admission requirements for the University. Meeting NCAA admission requirements does not guarantee admission into college
   - it simply determines whether students may participate in athletics during their freshman year. Students must follow each member college's admission policies and apply directly to that college.

CORE COURSES

What is a core course?

- An NCAA accepted academic course in one of the following areas
  - English, Mathematics, Natural / Physical Science, Social Science, Foreign Language.

How do I know what core courses exist at my school?

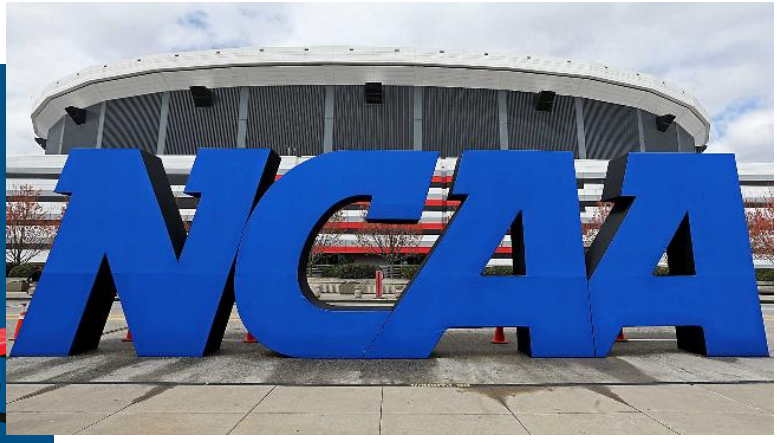
- Check your high school's List of NCAA Courses located on the Resources page of the NCAA Eligibility Center website at www.eligibilitycenter.org or ask your high school counselor.
- See the list attached. Keep in mind that these courses are fluid and change year to year.

Division I: **16 Core Courses**	**Division II:** **14 Core Courses (if enrolling prior to August 1, 2013)** **16 Core Courses (if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013)**
4 years of English	**3** years of English
3 years of math (algebra 1 or higher level)	**2** years of math (algebra 1 or higher level)
2 years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered)	**2** years of natural or physical science (including one year of lab science if offered)
1 extra year of English, math, or science	**2** extra years of English, math or science; **3** extra years if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013
2 years of social science	**2** years of social science
4 years of additional core courses (from any category above, or in a foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy)	**3** years of additional core courses (from any category above, or in a foreign language, nondoctrinal religion or philosophy); **4** extra years if enrolling on or after August 1, 2013

NCAA and Grades

GRADE POINT-AVERAGE

- Many times athletes struggle as Freshman and think that they have time to make up the poor grades they have earned. In fact there are very few opportunities outside of summer school and in many cases falling behind your first year can set you back for the rest of your high school career.
- Your electives do not count toward NCAA clearance. Be sure not to confuse your overall GPA with your NCAA core course GPA. They are not the same!
- Beginning August 1, 2016, you must earn at least an overall 2.300 GPA in NCAA core courses to be eligible to compete in your first year of college.
- To get a scholarship and practice, you must earn at least a 2.000 GPA in NCAA core courses.
- Only courses that appear on your high school's list of NCAA courses will be used to calculate your GPA for NCAA eligibility purposes. For a complete list of your school's courses, visit www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- Once ten core courses are "locked in" prior to the start of your seventh semester, you can't take those classes over again to improve your GPA.
- Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and core GP



SLIDING SCALE
AUGUST 1, 2016

- TEST SCORES
- Data show that while GPA is a better predictor of collegiate success than test scores, using the two in combination is the best method. The NCAA continues to emphasize GPA over test scores when assessing college preparedness.
- Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and core-course grade-point averages to determine eligibility.
- The NCAA uses only the critical reading and math SAT scores to determine eligibility. The writing score is not used.
- The NCAA uses only the sum of English, math, reading and science ACT scores to determine eligibility.

Use for Division I beginning August 1, 2016		
Core GPA	SAT	ACT
3.550 & above	400	37
3.525	410	38
3.500	420	39
3.475	430	40
3.450	440	41
3.425	450	41
3.400	460	42
3.375	470	42
3.350	480	43
3.325	490	44
3.300	500	44
3.275	510	45
3.250	520	46
3.225	530	46
3.200	540	47
3.175	550	47
3.150	560	48
3.125	570	49
3.100	580	49
3.075	590	50
3.050	600	50
3.025	610	51
3.000	620	52
2.975	630	52
2.950	640	53
2.925	650	53
2.900	660	54
2.875	670	55
2.850	680	56
2.825	690	56
2.800	700	57
2.775	710	58
2.750	720	59

Core GPA	SAT	ACT
2.725	730	60
2.700	740	61
2.675	750	61
2.650	760	62
2.625	770	63
2.600	780	64
2.575	790	65
2.550	800	66
2.525	810	67
2.500	820	68
2.475	830	69
2.450	840	70
2.425	850	70
2.400	860	71
2.375	870	72
2.350	880	73
2.325	890	74
2.300	900	75
GPA below 2.3 will result in academic red shirt		
2.299	910	76
2.275	910	76
2.250	920	77
2.225	930	78
2.200	940	79
2.175	950	80
2.150	960	81
2.125	970	82
2.100	980	83
2.075	990	84
2.050	1000	85
2.025	1010	86
2.000	1020	86

FRESHMAN SOPHOMORE SUGGESTED TIMELINE

Freshman Year:

1. Establish a four year academic plan with a counselor.
2. Take a strong academic course load and know that it will be challenging.
3. Only approved core courses will count for your eligibility. Go to the NCAA website WWW.eligibilitycenter.org and click enter to find the home page. You will find the list of courses under the "Resources" tab and click "U.S. Students" where you will find a lookup prompt.
4. Keep in mind that a "C" average will be a 2.0 and fall short of the requirements. Set a goal of a "B" average for all core classes.
5. Set a plan for your 16 core courses with your counselor and review at the end of the season and take summer school if necessary to replace any low grades.
6. Attend summer camps
    a. For research and exposure try to attend camps at schools you are interested in.
    b. Remind yourself that you are there to improve skill and become familiar with coaches and the school itself.
    c. Be sure to observe the skill level of the average participants. Know that the best are not always chosen due to academic standing.
7. Begin to film or videotape games
    a. This will allow you to begin to evaluate yourself and where you would like to be. It will also serve as a great reference for coaches out of the area. Video can be accessed through the HUDL program by an college coach in the country.
8. Visit potential college websites and fill out a simple questionnaire and email it back to the appropriate person. This is also a good time to begin observing the rosters of potential schools and observe what type of athletes they recruit as well as potential trends.

Sophomore Year:

1. Review freshman year core GPA and plan for 16 core classes with counselor.
2. Take the PSAT as soon as possible.
3. Begin the online registration at www.elgibilitycenter.org you will not be able to complete until the end of your senior year. Remember your password, you will need it later.

JUNIOR
SUGGESTED TIMELINE

Junior Year:

1. Register to take the ACT/ SAT or both in the spring semester and use the NCAA Eligibility Center code “9999” as a score recipient to send your official scores directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center. June or July prior to 11th grade is best.
2. Continue to take college preparatory courses. Double check to ensure the courses you are taking match the schools listed NCAA approved courses. Be sure you are taking the required core course requirements.
3. Obtain a sample letter and email your player profile, NCAA compliance form to potential colleges.
4. Meet with your coach for a thorough evaluation on your athletic ability and a recommendation for an appropriate level of competition.
5. Ask your coach to be proactive on your behalf and discuss their level of involvement in your recruitment process. They can help by responding or ensuring you receive questionnaire's.
6. Create a highlight film on HUDL using your account and upload to You Tube.
7. Begin to visit potential campuses of interest.
8. Narrow down your choices to begin research on admissions requirements for your desired University.
9. Request college applications as early as possible, preferably during the summer after your junior year.
10. Ask your high school counselor to send an official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center after completing your junior year. If you have attended more than one high school, the NCAA Eligibility Center will need official transcripts from all high schools attended. The NCAA Eligibility Center does NOT accept faxed or emailed transcripts/test scores. However, the NCAA Eligibility Center accepts transcripts electronically through Parchment, Scrip Safe, ConnectEDU, National Transcript Center/Pearson Edustructure, USMO ET and Xap.
11. Before registering for classes for your senior year, check with your high school counselor to determine the number of core courses you need to complete during your senior year.
12. Send your letter of introduction, player profile and your unofficial transcripts to schools you are interested in.
13. Keep a file of any college or coach that shows interest in you.
14. Continue to videotape games. Upload video to You Tube so that coaches can easily access.
15. Travel to college games of potential teams to assess their level of play and compare it to your level.

SENIOR
SUGGESTED TIMELINE

Senior Year:

1. Take the ACT and/or SAT again, if necessary. The NCAA Eligibility Center will use the best scores from each section of the ACT or SAT to determine your best cumulative score. Check with your counselor for national
2. Continue to take college-preparatory courses.
3. Submit NCAA clearinghouse form in the fall of your senior year.
4. Check the courses you have taken to match your school's List of NCAA Courses.
5. Review your amateurism responses and request final amateurism certification on or after April 1 (for fall enrollees) or October 1 (for spring enrollees).
6. Obtain college applications.
7. Apply to multiple colleges to ensure options in the event of a setback.
8. Continue to write or call coaches to show interest in their programs.
9. Write a new personal statement and update your player profile.
10. Complete Financial Aid forms early – Profile form in the fall (only needed for select colleges), FAFSA as soon as possible, after January 1st as required by all colleges.
11. Graduate on time with your graduating class (eight semesters after starting year nine).
12. After graduation, ask your high school counselor to send your final official transcript to the NCAA Eligibility Center with proof of graduation. The NCAA Eligibility Center accepts transcripts electronically through Parchment, Scrip Safe, ConnectEDU, National Transcript Center/Pearson Edustructure, USMO ET and Xap.
13. Certifications will only be performed for student-athletes placed on an NCAA Division I or II institution's request list.

Students and parents must take the initiative and work on their own behalf. Please do not sit back and wait for someone to do it for you. Staying on top of all the information throughout the high school years makes it easier when the actual time comes to applying for college.

NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE

TO BE COMPLETED IN FALL OF SENIOR YEAR

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) governs three divisions of college athletics and requires that students interested in playing on either Division I or Division II teams file forms for certification of athletic eligibility. The form and the NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student-Athlete, a publication that explains the rules and regulations that govern recruiting, eligibility, and financial aid, can be found at the NCAA website at www.ncaa.org.

Students who want to participate in Division I or Division II sports should start the certification process by September of their senior year. The procedure is as follows:

If you wish to participate in Division I or Division II sports, you must submit your SAT scores directly to the Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse code is 9999.

You must fill out a "Student Release Form" (SRF) in September of your senior year. The form gives any high school you may have attended, the authority to release your transcript, and eventually, proof of graduation. It also gives the Clearinghouse permission to release all academic and testing information to the colleges that request it. The preferred method of registering is online at:

www.web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/student/index_student.html

(Select Prospective Student-Athletes and click on Domestic Student Release Form or Foreign Student Release Form)

or by completing the student release form with which students must do the following:

Fill out and make three copies. Mail one copy to NCAA Clearinghouse. Give two copies to Registrar who will, upon receipt, send it to NCAA Clearinghouse with transcript.

IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO COMPLETE THIS FORM. YOU CANNOT MAKE OFFICIAL VISTS (financed by the college) TO A COLLEGE CAMPUS, TRY OUT OR PRACTICE WITH A COLLEGE TEAM UNITL THIS PAPERWORK IS FILED WITH THE NCAA.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DIVISIONS

Division I

- Division I member institutions have to sponsor at least seven sports for men and seven for women (or six for men and eight for women) with two team sports for each gender. Each playing season has to be represented by each gender, as well. There are contest and participant minimums for each sport, as well as scheduling criteria. For sports other than football and basketball, Division I schools must play 100% of the minimum number of contests against Division I opponents – anything over the minimum number of games has to be 50% Division I. Men's and women's basketball teams have to play all but two games against Division I teams. For men, they must play 1/3 of all their contests in the home arena. Schools that have football are classified as Division I-A or I-AA. Division I-A football schools are usually fairly elaborate programs. Division I-A teams have to meet minimum attendance requirements:
    - 17,000 people in attendance per home game
    - 20,000 average of all football games in the last four years, or
    - 30,000 permanent seats in their stadium and average 17,000 per home game, or
    - 20,000 average of all football games in the last four years, or
- Be in a member conference in which at least six conference members sponsor football or more than half of football schools meet attendance criteria.
- Division I-AA teams do not need to meet minimum attendance requirements. Division I schools must meet minimum financial aid awards for their athletic program, and there are maximum financial aid awards for each sport that a Division I school cannot exceed.

Division II

- Division II institutions have to sponsor at least four sports for men and four for women, with two team sports for each gender, and playing season represented by each gender. There are contest and participant minimums for each sport, as well as scheduling criteria – football and men's and women's basketball teams must play at least 50% of their games against Division II or Division I-A or Division I-AA opponents. For sports other than football or basketball there are no scheduling requirements. There are no attendance requirements for football, or arena game requirements for basketball. There are maximum financial aid awards for each sport that a Division II school must not exceed. Division II teams usually feature a number of local or in-state student athletes. Many Division II student-athletes pay for school through a combination of scholarship money, grants, student loans and employment earnings. Division II athletic programs are financed in the institution's budget like other academic departments on campus. Traditional rivalries with regional institutions dominate schedules of many Division II athletic programs.

Division III

- Division III institutions have to sponsor at least five sports for men and five for women, with two team sports for each gender. There are few contest and participant minimums for each sport. Division III athletics features student-athletes who receive no financial aid related to their athletic ability and athletic departments are staffed and funded like any other department in the university. Division III athletic departments place special importance on the impact of athletics on the participants rather than on the spectators. The student-athlete's experience is of paramount concern. Division III athletics encourages participation by maximizing the number and variety of athletic opportunities available to students, placing primary emphasis on regional in-season and conference competition.

LETTERS TO COACHES

Introducing Yourself to Coaches

- You can't expect college coaches to know who you are and want to give you an athletic scholarship simply because of your athletic success. There are thousands of other student-athletes out there that you are competing against. You have to set yourself apart and get in contact with the coaches you may want to play for. Email can be a quick way to reach out to coaches, but taking the time to send written letters may get you noticed as well. Nothing is more important than being unique at this point. You will find copies of sample letter all over the internet but the important thing is that you stand out. Do not use a canned letter and ensure you personalize your message.

Guidelines for Letters and Emails

- *Get your name out there.* Contact at least one coach each week, or around 50 a year. That may sound like a lot, but building relationships with multiple coaches might just result in several scholarship options when it's time to choose a college.
- *Research each school and coach.* Find out specific information about the athletic program you're contacting. Mention important wins or other recent success the coach has had. This kind of personal touch shows that you're interested in the coach and the college.
- *Avoid using a form letter.* Coaches can tell when you do. Take the time to personalize each letter or email.
- *Include some essential aspects.* There are several basic things that every letter or email should include.
- A personalized salutation including the coach's name. Never start with, "To Whom it May Concern."
- Your basic information including your high school, the position that you play, or events that you compete in.
- Include some of your important athletic stats as well as academic stats like your GPA and placement test scores.
- Tell the coach of any club sports or camps that you're participating in.
- Include any recognition you've received like all-conference honors, MVP mentions, and academic awards.
- Explain why you want to play for that college and coach. Be specific.
- Link to your athletic profile. Give the coach an option to find out more about you. A good way to do that is to create an athletic profile at NCSA or load your highlight on You Tube or HUDL.
- Don't forget your contact information. Make sure you've included your street address, phone number, and email address.

QUESTIONS TO ASK COLLEGE COACHES

Athletics

- **What positions will I play on your team?** It is not always obvious. Most coaches want to be flexible, so you might not receive a definite answer.
- **What other players may be competing at the same position?** The response could give you an idea of when you can expect to be a starter.
- **What is your policy on redshirting athletes**? The school's policy on redshirting may impact you both athletically and academically.
- **What expectations do you have for training and conditioning?** This will reveal the institution's commitment to training and conditioning program.
- **How would you best describe your coaching style?**
- Every coach has a particular style that involves different motivational techniques and discipline. You need to know if a coach's teaching style matches your learning style.
- **When does the head coach's contract end? How long does the coach intend to stay?** The answer could be helpful. Do not make any assumptions about how long a coach will be at a school. If the coach leaves, does this change your mind about the school/program?
- **What are preferred, invited and uninvited walk-on situations? How many do you expect to compete? How many earn a scholarship?** Situations vary from school to school.
- **Who else are you recruiting for my position?** Coaches may consider other student-athletes for every position.
- **Is medical insurance required for my participation? Is it provided by the college?** You may be required to provide proof of insurance.
- **If I am seriously injured while competing, who is responsible for my medical expenses?** Different colleges have different policies.
- **What other factors should I consider when choosing a college?** Be realistic about your athletic ability and the type of athletic experience you would enjoy. Some student athletes want to be part of a particular athletics program, even if that means little or no playing time. Other considerations include coaching staff and style. Of course, the ideal is to choose a college or university that will provide you with both the educational and athletics opportunities you want.

Academics

- **How good is the department in my major? How many students are in the department? What credentials do faculty members hold? What are graduates of the program doing after school?**
- **What percentage of players on scholarship graduate?** The response will suggest the school's commitment to academics. You might want to ask two follow-up questions:
- What percentage of incoming students eventually graduate?
- What is the current team's grade point average?
- **What academic support programs are available to student athletes?** Look for a college that will help you become a better student.
- **If I have a diagnosed and documented disability, what kind of academic services are available?** Special academic services may help you achieve your academic goals.
- **How many credit hours should I take in season and out of**
- **season?** It is important to determine how many credit hours are required for your degree and what pace you will follow to obtain that degree.
- **Are there restrictions in scheduling classes around practice?** NCAA rules prevent you from missing class for practice.
- **Is summer school available? If I need to take summer school, will it be paid for by the college?** You may need to take summer school to meet academic and/or graduation requirements.